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TO: FCC- Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act of 1999

Reference: REPORT Adopted: November 29, 2000 Released:

November 29, 2000

By the Commission: As required by the Satellite Home Viewer

Improvement Act of 1999

Subject: Subjects that were not Considered

Background - The area that I reside is known as a "fringe area" between Metropolitan Norfolk and Metropolitan Richmond. Therefore, the Television reception from both directions is equally inferior, with different ghosts from each direction. Although the 3 major network Norfolk affiliates , ABC, CBS, and NBC, have located their transmission towers in Driver, VA. It appears the that the transmitters are pointed in the toward the Metropolitan center of population?no great mystery to this? this gets the biggest coverage for the their dollar.

When Continental Cable brought in the Cablevision into our area, they recognized the proximity to both of Metropolitan Norfolk and Metropolitan Richmond and included the local television stations from both areas. And Continental Cable even put Channel 3 on 3, 6 on 6, Etc. Continental Cable even went as far as to put Channel 9 from Chicago on channel 9 and Channel 17 (TBS) from Atlanta on Channel 17. The cable company in adjacent Hampton and Newport News, cities that were closer to Norfolk, only included the Norfolk area stations because those areas could not receive the Richmond area even with outside antennas. So, being on the "fringe area" turned out to be an advantage. We could receive affiliates from both areas where the local programming was different, giving us a wider choice of movies, even choices more choices in the NFL football programming at times.

Until the change in policy about the franchised affiliates where in our case Fox Channel 43 in Metropolitan Norfolk objected to our area having access to Fox 35 Channel from Metropolitan Richmond. This caused the current cable company, Cox Communication , to drop Channel 35 from our cable choices. Even though in miles, and weather we are closer to Richmond than Norfolk. In a recent change by Cox Communication Cable all but one of the Richmond Channels were discontinued. It appears from the letters to the editor in the local paper, that the vocals subscribers would had been happier if the local cable company had kept the Richmond channels and only one channel from Norfolk.

It really boils down to a safety situation. The weather forecasts from Richmond stations are more applicable to our area than the ones from Norfolk. Norfolk area is surrounded by water and this greatly effects the temperatures, snow, and ice conditions and only one of the network affiliates from the Metropolitan Norfolk ever mentions Williamsburg in their weather forecasts..

In 24 pages of the only criteria that was considered was the receivablity of a signal in the fringe areas. I believe that the cable or the satellite in a fringe area should be at least be an

upgrading of the signals that can be received over the air. Just because some distance franchised affiliate objects to the location in a fringe area receiving their affiliate signal from another area that the FCC should punish the subscribers in that fringe area.

The local cable vision company, Cox Communications has become so hard to deal with that many locals, including myself, have chosen the Satellite company Direct TV. There are many good qualities for the local channels on satellite, for example Channel 3 is on 3, 10 is on 10.etc. However, there are several deficiencies in the selections because the Weather Channel does not have the local weather on the 8s, and we do not get any Richmond Area Channels.

Please give some consideration to the rights of the subscribers in the "fringe areas" because of the weather related safety and to the increased flexibility in the local programming choices.